KVRX
The Call Letter

The University of Texas at Austin **April/May 1998**

Editor Says . . .

Spring always siezes me and commits me to excitement and makes me anxious for summer. My first spring obsession was meeting The Handsome Family during South by Southwest. It remained for weeks afterwards, and now I have settled down after a sweet e-mail from Rennie Sparks, thanking me for my loyalty to their music.

After that came the annual KVRX pledge drive. Our pledge drive director, Phillip Moody was consumed by that for the duration of two weeks. He woke up to it, and went to bed to the sounds of people raising money. The first night of the pledge drive was on the Academy Awards ceremony. My attention was divided between listening to the first show of the pledge drive and seeing Best Actress named - a day later I found out that Helen Hunt was named.

It was the most successful pledge drive KVRX ever had. Callers pledged over $8,000 and we have recieved a little over $6,000 already in the station's account.

Of course with the graduation of some of our very excellent management staff, I predict that the next thing on my mind will be saying good-bye to them all. And as we all say good-bye and thank our wonderful station manager, Mike Heidenreich. I'll never eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich without thinking of you. Congratulations to Mark Miller, our new KVRX station manager.

editor,

The KVRX Call Letter is published monthly by the staff of KVRX 91.7 FM, the student radio station of the University of Texas at Austin. Views expressed herein are the views of and do not necessarily reflect those of KVRX, Texas Student Publications or UT-Austin.

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Austin Scope

Stories end and people forget, but this is one childrens' story worth remembering . . .

A child's bed and shelter fosters dreams...

Seven-year old *Steven, with the big brown eyes, sits on the edge of a coffee table. His face does not conceal distrust when I approach, and he frowns as he asks,"Who are you?"

Smiling, I introduce myself and explain that I am writing a story about the Children's Shelter of Austin where he is staying. His frown fades and a quizzical expression crosses his face as he asks,"Is it a good story or a bad story?" I assure him that it is a good story.

Steven and his five year old brother, *Darrell, both stay at the shelter temporarily. The shelter provides care for abused, abandoned, and neglected children until future arrangements are made. The children here each have their own "bad story." However, the Children's Shelter offers a glimmer of hope, a "good story," to the children that stay there.

The Children's Shelter of Austin is the only shelter for children ten and younger in Austin. An optimist would want to believe that this is because Austin only needs one shelter. This is not the case. In 1996 there were 939 confirmed cases of child abuse in the Austin community. That is only cases that were reported or where enough evidence was shown to prove abuse or neglect. The shelter cared for 179 children in 1997, but 205 were turned away. Those turned away are bussed to neighboring counties, and some children are bussed as far as San Antonio.

Susan Wills, executive director of the Children's Shelter relates that "sometimes I feel like I'm in a third world country not Austin because of the neglect and abuse that these children suffer from."

One story is that of a five-year old boy, who had been sexually abused and spouting sexual obscenities at a male member of the shelter's staff .

By law the shelter is only allowed to care for fifteen children, including infants, a day. The children remain at the shelter for thirty days. Then they are either placed into foster care or into a relative's home.

Sonja Berry, a professor in the school of social work, explains "the purpose for placing young children in a shelter is to provide a safe and comfortable place for them to live while the social workers have time to complete assessments to determine their needs..."

It proves difficult to answer why there is only one children's shelter in such a conscientious community like Austin. Wills believes that "people in Austin are so kind, but are not aware of how much these children are suffering."

Money remains a key component in this problem; The shelter receives a limited amount of money for food, clothing, and pay for the staff through the state, county, and city. Money from the government does not cover funding for a new shelter. Currently the shelter is renovating a beautiful two-story house that is located right next door. The money raised for this project comes entirely through private donations, and the shelter need $400,000 more to complete the plan.

The second component to this situation is community participation. Specifically, the shelter needs generous members of the community to donate their personal time to make a huge difference in a child's life.

. . ."sometimes I feel like I'm in a third world country not Austin because of the neglect and abuse that these children suffer from."

On October 24, 1997 the Austin-American-Statesman printed a story about a nine-year-old girl named Victoria who was placed in the shelter after removal from her rat-infested home. The story recounts how Victoria did not speak at first, no one believed she was capable of communicating, and how members of the shelter were elated when she finally said her first word: "Mama."

After the story was printed community interest peaked, and both donations and volunteer work increased, but as Wills points out, "Stories end and people forget." Most of the volunteer staff at the shelter are from the university. Freshman student, Sonali Mehta, describes her volunteer time at the shelter as, "working around happy kids in a big house."

The most important thing that the shelter offers children like Steven and Darrell ,in Will's opinion, is hope. "If we can just give these kids hope than we have given them something to live for."

**names of children have been changed*

-Lena MacDonnell

EDITOR'S NOTE: Recently, the Austin community is addressing the issue of children's care more, but the media's limelight is only a temporary reminder. Our city's children our counting on active support and participation and the best time to make any contribution is now. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the children's shelter and foster care programs, please read below.

Private Donations
Send to :

The Children's Shelter of Austin
C/O: Tamara Beland
P.O. Box 684213

Or Call

Phone : 512-258-4579
Austin, Texas 78768-4213

For Information on where to deliver

phone: 512-258-4579
fax: 512-322-9461

Wish List

Personal Hygiene Items
-African-American hair products
-toothpaste
-toothbrushes
-mouth rinse
-floss
-diapers (large sizes: 3,4 & 5)
-blankets
-pillows

Toys
-bike helmuts
-roller blades
-dolls
-stuffed animals

Misc.
-Pentium 133
-Gift Certificates for Movies, Stores, and Restaurants
-furniture
-gently used clothes

kvrx salutes. . .

Graduating Directors and Managers

As summer rolls in, the leaves green and sway and hang limp in our beloved Texas humidity, it mark the time for change around KVRX. Rumors floated around that some of the staff used to live in that makeshift office/studio where documents littered the desk and microphone stands were put away in a corne closet.

Maybe over the years some of the staff did spend nights there before or after their radio show. KVRX served as a transitional tree house of sorts. Ma days I have spent there seems like one fantastic dsy at the carnival. It has served as an extension to school stress and work problems. Everyone has a niche and nestles in comfort of the diverse aspects which create our beloved college radio for UT.

And for some, the time has come to end their term as a college dj. Graduation approaches and KVR releases some of its most dedicated management staff. While we welcome the fresh faces that will lead KVR into the next 10 years, we sadly nod good bye to the faces that got us this far. . .

station manager: Mike Heidenreich
technical director: Aaron Smithers
fall production manager: Richard Whymark
fall *Call Letter* editor: Marlo Bennett

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Lena MacDonald
Amber C. Pearce
David Shaenfeld

Inside KVRX

Kari's Korner: The CMJ Experience

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. It was sunny days and El Niño. San Diego was the host city for the Gavin Convention this year, and if you were involved in hip hop at KVRX, you went.

The purpose of this convention was multi-faceted. Officially, this was a chance for dj's and radio people to network with label representatives, pass out promotional products, and develop marketing strategies to maximize the efficiency of creating the music industry's newest stars. Unofficially, the convention was a chance for people of the same age group to raise hell in a city they have never been to. Of course, I was the only one in the KVRX conglomerate to appoint notice to the unofficial reason. If only i were as moral as my fellow dj's

The conference went Thursday through Saturday. It was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. We went to the hotel right after we dropped off our own luggage after registering we went to the key note address. Thembissa M'Shaka was interviewing the dj crew formely known as the X-men, now known as the X-ecutioners. The questions were quite scholarly at first. . .

"So what happens when you get a paper cut? Does that put you out of commission? Do you have insurance on your hands?"

Alright, so it wasn't as scholarly and serious as I thought. In the walkway of the hotel, it was a sea of fashion logos. Mecca, Fubu, Hilfiger, Tommy, Pelle Pele. Eureka... So these are the people that they are trying to draw in with those fashion spreads in The Source!

In the crowd there were plenty of radio industry folks: promoters, dj's and a couple of artists. I bumped into one kid, and started conversing with him. His name was Atom-12 of the Masters of the Universe.

Why did I think only punk rockers had corny names? Anyway, yapping in my ear, he was trying to sell me a $5 dollar ticket to go see him, and a whole bunch of other mc's whom I also recognized. (Ras Kass, Voodoo!, Smif n Wessun, just to name a few). Like the gimp that I am, I bought not just one, but two.

Fast forward to the show: seems I don't need a ticket since I'm with the convention. That's okay, I'm from Texas, I will get my money back. The show was on the fourth floor of a building in downtown San Diego. It was kinda thick. The thing that I noticed first, was how culturaly mixed it was. There were black kids, Hispanic kids, Asian kids, and white kids. No one group dominated the entire scene though. They all came to the show in their respective sets, so there wasn't a lot of cross-cultural interaction, but it was something I had never seen before.

The Austin hip hop scene is not nearly as mixed as it should be. I've been to plenty of hip hop parties and shows where only one group will show up. Indian kids have their own hip hop parties. Asian kids have their own hip hop parties. West campus Greek folks have their own hip hop shows (Run Dmc, Rob Base, Vanilla Ice, Coolio); Black Greeks have their own parties; Black Austinites have their own parties and shows. . . Everybody seems to love hip hop, they just don't like loving it together.

The show was long- from ten until midnight. About ten groups were supposed to perform.

The highlights: What What of Natural Resources (in my opinion the best female on a mic) was looking at me the whole time while she was performing. Ras Kass, one of the best mc's in hip hop, did a couple of new songs. The best performance I saw all weekend was the Cocoa Bruvas. They were the last to perform. They opened with one of their classics, "Let's git it on". They followed with some recent material. The crowd knew the words, they knew when to get hype, and when not to. And as Steel and Tek moved the crowd, the lights came on. At the end of the third song, a gaurd stepped up to them to take the mics. Steel said, "Power to the people, we've got the power from the people" The rent-a-cop wasn't phased.

Steel then said, "If you want this mic, you are going to have to battle me for it." Securtiy backed off, and they did one more song.

Quite possibly one of the best exchanges I've witness between two authority figures.

-Kari Orr

Hey! What are you doing this summer?

If you are registered at UT- Austin, you can become radio-active with KVRX! Have you ever wondered what indie rock really means? Do you thnk there is more to "underground" music than indie rock? If you answered yes or maybe to these questions, consider becoming a staff member at KVRX. This summer KVRX is packing its bags and moving to a new and improved location and we need all the help we can get..

By becoming a part of our dynamic, eclectic, eccentric staff, you will learn more than how to play a record player if you never have before. It's better than camp and cheaper too! As a matter of fact it's free. No membership fees, no hype, just music and good times. You can get hands-on experience with production, business experience with underwriting sales and inventory, and book keeping, news reporting, booking, public relations and much more. To find out how to become involved and attend the summer staff meetings, call us at :

471-5106

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David Shaenfeld presents. . .

Jazz Top Ten hits at KVRX

** indicates a Texas artist*

1.Various Artists	!Sabroso!	Rhino
2.The Jon Jarvis Trio	Never Never Land	TVT
3.Wynton Marsalis	The Midnight Blue	Columbia
4. The Golden Arm Trio *	S/T	Shamrock
5. Ui	Lifelike	Southern
6. Soft Machine	Virtually	Cuneiform
7. Deep Sombreos	S/T	self release
8. The Dylan Group	It's All About	Bubblecore
9.The Sorts	More There	Slowdime
10.Trio Hurricane	Live--Fire in the Vallley	Ermite

Loud Rock Top Ten hits at KVRX

** indicates a Texas artist*

1. Fugazi	End Hits	Dischord
2. The 1-4-5's*	Rock 'n' Roll Spook Party	Estrus
3. Spoon*	30 Gallon Tank	Elektra
4. Cornelius	Fantasma	Matador
5.Versus	Two Cents Plus Tax	Caroline
6.Trans Am	The Surveillance	ThrillJockey
7.The Adults*	Soothing Sounds for Baby	Fume
8.Donkey	Pump in the Yard,Dump in the Bucket	Loveletter
9.Electric Company	Studio City	Island
10. The Assholes*	The Assholes Say: FUCK YOU	Southern Love

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